

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Cavatappi Distribuzione

Washington Manufacturing Services

Cavatappi Distribuzione Incorporates Efficiency Into New Plant Layout

Client Profile:

Cavatappi Distribuzione is a wholesale distributor that takes pride in offering excellent local and imported wines. Established in 1990, the company's main customers are wine stores, grocery stores, and restaurants. Located in Seattle, Washington, the company employs 13 people.

Situation:

Cavatappi Distribuzione could no longer cope with the space constraints at its warehouse facility and decided to move to a larger plant. The company wanted to take advantage of the move to find ways to improve operational efficiencies, capacity, inventory control, and shipping order accuracy, as well as reduce lost inventory. The company contacted Washington Manufacturing Services (WMS), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

WMS reviewed the project requirements and teamed with Kocer Consulting and Engineering, an experience warehouse design consultant, to provide a new facility layout. The resulting plan allowed for efficient flow of materials, maximum storage capacity for the new building, a modular, easy-to-understand location scheme, and room for future expansion. Cavatappi Distribuzione's current inventory is now divided into four categories, with "fast-moving" items located closest to the receiving and shipping dock, and "slow-moving" items furthest away and consolidated.

Results:

Reduced walking, picking, and loading by 20 percent.

Reduced damage and lost product by 25 percent.

Increased space utilization by 25 percent.

Testimonial:

"The layout project [with Washington Manufacturing Services and Kocer Consulting and Engineering] gave us a more efficient manner of utilizing the new warehouse. We learned a lot about space consolidation, stacking, and location of high-density and high-use products close to the receiving and shipping ramps."

Peter Dow, President

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